

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a liquid crystal display panel;

a backlight unit having a light guide plate, a fluorescent lamp, a reflection sheet substantially enclosing the fluorescent lamp to reflect light emitted from the fluorescent lamp, and a bottom cover having an end portion with a shape that substantially follows a contour of the reflection sheet to substantially surround and encase the reflection sheet and to support and affix the reflection sheet, the reflection sheet enclosing an outer side of the florescent lamp except for a light exit portion of the fluorescent lamp and overlapping a portion of the light guide plate, ~~wherein the bottom cover is positioned to leave a predetermined interval from the light guide plate to simplify assembly of the light guide plate and the predetermined interval is within a range of about 0.1mm to about 50mm;~~

at least one optical sheet positioned along an upper surface of the light guide plate,

wherein an end portion of the optical sheet is positioned on an end portion of the reflection sheet and

wherein the end portion of the bottom cover is positioned to leave a predetermined interval from the light guide plate and the optical sheet to simplify assembly of the light guide plate and the predetermined interval is within a range of about 0.1mm to about 50mm; and

a chassis supporting and affixing the liquid crystal display panel and the backlight unit.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 1, wherein the backlight unit further comprises:

a panel-type light guide plate having a light projection plane and a light incident plane;

a reflection plate along a rear side of the light guide plate;

a lamp assembly at the light incident plane of the light guide plate, the lamp assembly including the fluorescent lamp and the reflection sheet at an outer side of fluorescent lamp; and

a rectangular mold frame receiving the reflection plate, the light guide plate, the optical sheet, and the lamp assembly therein,

wherein the bottom cover extends from a bottom of the mold frame to an outer side of the reflection sheet.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 2, wherein the reflection sheet has a round shape and end portions of the reflection sheet overlap a portion of the light guide plate by a first overlap amount.

Claim 5 (Original): The device according to claim 4, wherein the first overlap amount is within a range of about 0.2 mm to about 30 mm.

Claim 6 (Original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the reflection sheet is formed of one of a synthetic resin selected from the group consisting of alkylbenzene sulfonate (ABS), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and a non-metallic substance.

Claim 7 (Original): The device according to claim 6, wherein the synthetic resin includes one of a polymer having a high reflexivity and Ti.

Claim 8 (Original): The device according to claim 2, wherein an extension portion of the reflection plate forms the reflection sheet.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 1, wherein the end portion of the bottom cover has a round shape.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A backlight unit, comprising:

a panel-type light guide plate having a light projection plane and a light incident plane;

a reflection plate along a rear side of the light guide plate;

a lamp assembly at the light incident plane of the light guide plate, the lamp assembly including the fluorescent lamp and a reflection sheet at an outer side of fluorescent lamp;

at least one optical sheet over the light projection plane of the light guide plate, wherein an end portion of the optical sheet is positioned on an end portion of the reflection sheet; and

a bottom cover extending from a rear side of the reflection plate to an outer side of the reflection sheet such that an end portion of the bottom cover extends to the outer side of the reflection sheet substantially following a contour of the reflection sheet to substantially surround and encase the reflection sheet and to support and affix the reflection sheet, the reflection sheet enclosing an outer side of the florescent lamp except for a light exit portion of the fluorescent lamp and overlapping a portion of the light guide plate,

wherein the end portion of the bottom cover is positioned to leave a predetermined interval from the light guide plate and the optical sheet to simplify assembly of the light guide plate and the predetermined interval is within a range of about 0.1mm to about 50mm.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 11, wherein the reflection sheet is formed of one of a synthetic resin selected from the group consisting of alkylbenzene sulfonate (ABS), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC), and a non-metallic substance.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 12, wherein the synthetic resin includes one of a polymer having a high reflexivity and Ti.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 11, wherein an extension portion of the reflection plate forms the reflection sheet.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 11, wherein the end portion of the bottom cover has a round shape.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 11, wherein end portions of the reflection sheet overlap a portion of the light guide plate by a first overlap amount within a range of about 0.2 mm to about 30 mm.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A backlight unit for a liquid crystal display device, comprising:

- a light guide plate;

- a reflection plate along a rear side of the light guide plate;

- a fluorescent lamp along an outer periphery of the light guide plate;

- a reflection sheet substantially enclosing the fluorescent lamp along the outer periphery of the light guide plate to reflect light from the fluorescent lamp to the light guide plate;

- at least one optical sheet positioned along an upper surface of the light guide plate, wherein an end portion of the optical sheet is positioned on an end portion of the reflection sheet; and

a bottom cover along a rear side of the reflection plate having an end portion with a shape that substantially follows a contour of the reflection sheet to substantially surround and encase the reflection sheet and to support and affix the reflection sheet, the reflection sheet enclosing an outer side of the florescent lamp except for a light exit portion of the fluorescent lamp and overlapping a portion of the light guide plate,

wherein the end portion of the bottom cover is positioned to leave a predetermined interval from the light guide plate and the optical sheet to simplify assembly of the light guide plate and the predetermined interval is within a range of about 0.1mm to about 50mm.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 18, wherein a first end portion of the reflection sheet overlaps a portion of the reflection plate and a second end portion of the reflection sheet overlaps a portion of the light guide plate.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 18, wherein an extension portion of the reflection plate forms the reflection sheet.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The device according to claim 1, wherein the end portion of the bottom cover contacts the reflection sheet.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 11, wherein the end portion of the bottom cover contacts the reflection sheet.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The backlight unit according to claim 18, wherein the end portion of the bottom cover contacts the reflection sheet.